

Hello Rep. Hicks and Committee Leg. Asst Travis Reese.

My name is Kelly Kausel and I am a parent of a 14 year old child Noah. My son has a medical diagnosis of autism, receptive/expressive language delay, Anxiety and ADHD.

My son can not use the men's bathroom by himself in public places. Having a bathroom for ALL people to safely use the bathroom is very important when you go out into the community in which your live.

My son can not stand automatic flushing toilets, loud Hair dryer noise and is just super sensitive to sounds and smells.

I also am a sandwich generation care taker.

I help my mother in law who walks with a Walker and is close to being in a wheelchair as she has a foot ulcer in her foot that is not healing. My Mother in law is always worried about bathrooms and having dignity when what going out into public because she has had accidents before and she has had many surgeries where she was not able to use the toilet because she was too weak.

I also had my cousin Jill who died this last July 2022 of cancer. She had stage 4 breast cancer and in January 2022 she was diagnosed with bone cancer. She broke her hip by just standing up and it was super painful. There was many times I took her out into the public and there was not a bathroom she could push her wheelchair into that was big enough and she was too weak to use a disability stall in a public bathrooms. Several times she would sit in urine/poop soaked diaper Al because there was not place to change her. She developed UTI infections from this and would have to be rushed into the hospital because the infection would spread quickly through her body and The transitional care unit would send her to the hospital until she could be on some Iv type antibiotics, because she was allergic to most antibiotics because of the coding on the pill.

We have to start thinking about our older generations and individuals with disabilities. They do not want or just live in 4 walls of their house or apartment they want to be part of their community.

When we have places do remodels or new construction like parks we should be making these types of restrooms. If you go to the Eagan Inclusive Park Woodhaven Park they have public restrooms with adult size changing stations.

We need more of this to keep peoples dignity and so people feel like they can leave their home. My cousins last meal before she got a UTI and died was at como park. There was zero places to access to change her. The following week she has UTI infection, C Diff, had a stroke and died shortly later on.

If we go out there is be access to a family style bathroom with an adult changing station.

Thank you for your time!

Kelly Kausel